



NEW JERSEY

WEEKLY CROP WEATHER

New Jersey

Agricultural Statistics Service

In Cooperation With:  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service  
Agricultural Marketing Service  
U.S. Department of Commerce/N.O.A.A.  
Rutgers University

NOAA WEATHER RADIO STATIONS

**Allentown**  
WXL-39 on the VHF-FM  
frequency of 162.40 Megahertz.  
**Atlantic City**  
KHB-38 on the VHF-FM  
frequency of 162.40 Megahertz.  
**New York City**  
KWO-35 on the VHF-FM  
frequency of 160.55 Megahertz.  
**Philadelphia**  
KIH-28 on the VHF-FM  
frequency of 162.475 Megahertz.

NEW JERSEY AUCTIONS

**Vineland**  
Phone: (856)691-0721  
Sales 10:00AM Daily except Sunday.  
**Landisville**  
Phone: (856)697-2273  
Direct Sales Daily  
**Swedesboro**  
Phone: (856)476-0313  
**Hightstown**  
Phone: (609)448-0193  
Auction Sales Mon-Wed-Fri-7pm

RUTGERS WEEKLY FORECAST

Agricultural Weather Advisory for New Jersey and Southeastern Pennsylvania

Issued by Rutgers University New Brunswick NJ

7 am EDT Monday September 29, 2003

Rainfall amounts, less than a tenth of an inch in the north today otherwise none through Tuesday.

Winds for spraying, northwest 10 to 15 mph today and tonight, west around 10 mph Tuesday.

Relative humidity in percent, 40 to 50 today, 85 to 95 tonight, 40 to 50 Tuesday.

Dew points, mid 40s today, low 40s tonight, upper 30s Tuesday.

Drying conditions, fair today, good Tuesday.

Frost freeze or dew, little dew expected tonight because of wind, heavy dew with a little scattered frost possible in the most extreme inland locations Tuesday night. It appears another chance of frost is likely later in the week.

Percent of possible sunshine, 50 today, 90 Tuesday.

There is a 30 percent north and 10 percent south probability of precipitation during the 12 hour period beginning at 8 am and ending at 8 pm that could adversely affect the performance of pesticides that require a rain free period after application.

Late season hay cutting will see a chance of a few light showers in the north this morning and another chance of showers on Wednesday along with cool temperatures.

Estimated soil moisture in percent of field capacity remains high and will only improve slowly as the week progresses.

Weather conditions should not be favorable for cranberry scald today and Tuesday. This is the last scald statement of the season.

Temperatures in the respresentative cranberry bogs will probably remain above freezing tonight due to wind but will likley drop to 25 to 29 Tuesday night if skies remain clear.

The latest 8 to 14 day outlook for the period October 6, 2003 though October 12, 2003 is calling for temperatures to average below normal and precipitation to total above normal.

Climate summary for the week ending 8am 09/29/03  
Temperatures averaged much above normal. Extremes were 83 degrees at Hammonton on September 28, 2003, and 46 degrees at Newton on September 24, 2003.

Weekly rainfall averaged 2.66 inches north, 1.73 inches central, and 1.13 inches south. The heaviest 24 hour total reported was 1.89 inches at Belvidere on September 23, 2003 through September 24, 2003.

Estimated soil moisture, in percent of field capacity, this past week averaged 98 percent north, 93 percent central, and 84 percent south.

Four inch soil temperatures averaged 65 degrees north, 67 degrees central, and 69 degrees south.

WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING 8 AM MONDAY 09/29/03

Weather Stations	Rainfall			Temperatures				Growing Degree Days 1/		Soil Moisture 2/
	Last Week	Since March 1		Last Week				Total	Dept.*	
		Total	Dept.*	Max.	Min.	Avg.	Dept.*			
- Inches -                      - Degrees -                      - Base 50°F -										
NORTH										
Belvidere Bridge	2.81	42.30	13.98	80	48	64	5	2860	263	95
Canoe Brook				DATA NOT AVAILABLE						
Charlotteburg				DATA NOT AVAILABLE						
Flemington	2.08	38.82	10.41	81	47	65	6	2805	128	99
Long Valley	2.89	39.93	9.21	76	48	63	6	2251	-38	98
Newton	2.86	39.76	12.10	80	46	62	6	2583	260	98
CENTRAL										
Freehold	1.61	30.73	3.16	82	49	67	6	3036	183	100
Long Branch	1.92	33.29	5.39	77	52	66	4	2859	62	100
New Brunswick	1.85	36.08	8.02	82	47	66	5	3000	18	100
Pemberton				DATA NOT AVAILABLE						
Toms River	1.83	35.16	6.63	80	50	67	6	3050	250	100
Trenton	1.44	30.35	3.81	80	49	66	4	2971	-134	99
SOUTH										
A.C. Marina				DATA NOT AVAILABLE						
Cape May C.H.	.98	27.41	2.64	79	50	68	3	2962	110	76
Downstown	1.19	31.45	5.51	82	50	67	4	3104	-20	83
Glassboro	1.44	32.77	5.45	82	54	69	7	3293	206	89
Hammonton	.92	27.07	-.22	83	49	68	6	3246	152	84
Pomona	1.06	25.26	.67	80	50	67	6	3087	214	88
Seabrook	1.18	32.98	7.95	80	53	69	6	3360	215	77
South Harrison	1.37	30.00	3.38	81	53	68	NA	3252	NA	NA

\*Departure from normal.  
1/ Growing degree days since March 1, total and departure from normal or long term average.  
2/ Estimated soil moisture as % of field capacity based on climate data.

AGRICULTURE

Days suitable for field work were 5.0. Temperatures were above normal across most the state for the week. There were measurable amounts of rainfall across most of the state. Top soil moisture was rated 70% adequate and 30% surplus. Activities during the week were harvesting fruit and vegetables, orchard clean-up, planting cover crops, harvesting corn silage, baling hay, and applying pesticide and herbicide sprays. A significant number of corn acres were reported to have been laid down by the wind and wet soils, and some of those acres may not be harvestable. Leaf drop on soybean plants and filling of pods continued. Hay regrowth looked fair to good across the state, but haymaking was hampered by wet soil conditions. Vegetable disease pressure was high in most fields due to wet weather conditions. Various diseases, mildew problems, and weather damage continued in pumpkin fields. Winter squash exhibited some water stains. Wind and rain damage was reported in lettuce fields. Some cracking of apples was seen because of excess moisture. Peach harvest neared completion. Available pasture continued to be plentiful.

SOIL MOISTURE TABLE				RANGE AND PASTURE			
		THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	PREVIOUS YEAR	CURRENT	PREVIOUS WEEK	PREVIOUS YEAR
VERY SHORT		0%	0%	0%	VERY POOR	0%	0%
SHORT		0%	0%	28%	POOR	0%	20%
ADEQUATE		70%	75%	72%	FAIR	40%	52%
SURPLUS		30%	25%	0%	GOOD	60%	28%
					EXCELLENT	0%	0%

JERSEY FRESH AVAILABILITY FOR SEPTEMBER 29, 2003

Acorn Squash – Fair to good quantity and good quality product.

Beets – Good quantity and quality available.

Butternut Squash – Fair to good quantity and good quality product.

Cabbage – Savoy, Green, and Red varieties being seen in good quantity and quality.

Collards – Good quantity and quality available with the cooler fall weather.

Cucumbers – Fair to good quality and fair quantity available as cooler temperatures have slowed ripening and recent winds have decreased the quantity available and also created some variability in quality due to wind damage. Finishing up its season in the next two weeks.

Eggplant – Good quality and only fair quantity available as cooler temperatures have slowed ripening and last week’s winds have decreased the quantity available and also created some variability in quality due to wind damage. Finishing up its season.

Escarole & Endive – Good quality product is now being harvested in good volume.

Greens – Fair to good quality and good quantity of Kholrabi, Kale, Broccoli Raab, and Swiss Chard. The hurricane and last week’s winds have created some variability in quality due to wind damage.

Herbs – Fair to good quality and good quantity for Cilantro, Dill, Parsley, and Arugula. Baby Arugula, Basil, Mustard, and Mint all have good quality and quantity. The hurricane and last week’s winds have created some variability in quality due to wind damage.

Italian & White Eggplants – Fair to minimal quantities of very good quality product available. Finishing up its season.

Leeks – Good quantity and quality available.

Lettuces – The hurricane and recent high winds have created some variability in cosmetic quality due to wind damage. Even though good quantities of Boston and Green & Red Leaf lettuces are around and increasing quantities of Romaine are available, low prices are causing many growers not to bother harvesting them. Iceberg lettuce is starting to be picked now with volume building over the next week or so.

Peaches – Growers have just finished picking their last peaches. They have excellent color, flavor, and size though the hurricane and last week’s winds have created some variability in quality due to wind damage. The Encore, LauroI,

Autumn Glo and Parade varieties are available. Snow Giant is the late season white peach variety available.

Peppers – Fair to good quality and quantity available as growers start to pick everything that’s still left in the fields. The cooler temperatures are slowing ripening and recent high winds have created some variability in quality due to wind damage. Finishing up its season in the next two weeks.

Pickles – Fair to good quality and only fair quantity available as cooler temperatures have slowed ripening and recent high winds have decreased the quantity available and also created some variability in quality due to wind damage. Finishing up its season in the next two weeks.

Pumpkins – The cool and wet Spring caused late planting this year and a light fruit set as well. We'll probably have 20-30% less supply this year with wholesale prices expected to be proportionately higher. Know your pumpkin grower. With all of this summer’s wetness, growers who stuck to their spray schedules seem to have excellent quality this year.

Spinach – Increasing quantities of good quality product available.

Sweet Corn – The end of our season. Though we still have a fair quantity of quality corn available, there is more variability in quality now due to fall insect and disease pressures.

Sweet Potatoes – Good quality and quantity are now available.

Tomatoes – September weather had allowed for some very beautiful late season round, plum, and grape tomatoes. The cooler temperatures have slowed ripening though and recent high winds have created some variability in quality due to wind damage. Good quantity of fair to good quality still available. We'll be harvesting tomatoes until frost.

Turnips – Good quantity and quality available.

White Potatoes – Good quantity and quality available through mid-October.

Yellow Squash – Fair to good quality and fair quantity available.

Zucchini – Fair to good quality and fair quantity available.

JERSEY FRESH FORECAST

Broccoli/Brussels Sprouts/Cauliflower – Look for harvests to begin next week.

Cranberries – Look for harvest to begin next week. We will have increased amounts of high quality dry harvested red and white berries available this year.

NEW JERSEY AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE  
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PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE \$300